THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) : (a) The total export of iron ore during the last three years is estimated to have been as under :—

Year	Qty. in million tonnes.
1989-90	35.56
1990-91	32.49
1991-92	29.25

(Source : DGCI&S)

(b) The total import of useable steel during the last three years has been as under :—

Year	Qty. in million tonnes.
1989-90	1.47
1990-91	1.28
1991-92	1.04

(NB : Imports from major ports only).

Change in stand on Patent Rights

553. SHRI ASHIS SEN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any change in Government's stand on patent rights banks and insurance companies as desired by USA; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) : (a) and (b) Intellectual property rights, including patent rights, are being negotiated in the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations. In December 1991 Director General GATT had put forward comprehensive proposals, including suggestions on subjects on which agreement could not be reached among participating countries, such as intellectual property rights. The Uruguay Round negotiations are still in progress.

In the negotiations on Services in the Uruguay Round, the frame-work agreement envisages an exchange of market access concessions among participating countries. Like other participants India has also made an initial and conditional offer on market access in services.

The sectors in which India has made an offer are engineering services, computer-related services, research and development services, technical testing and analysis services, value-added telecommunication services, construction of roads and bridges, hospital services, hotels and other lodging services, motion picture and video distribution services, travel agency and tour operator services and international freight transportation by air, apart from certain financial services.

In financial services, the offer covers marine freight insurance and reinsurance These areas of insurance are already open to foreign service providers and the intention is to commit ourselves to continued access at existing levels. The offer on insurance includes services auxiliary to insurance operations, i.e. brokerage, risk management, survey and loss adjustment.

Improvements, if any, to our initial and conditional offer may be considered by the inclusion of some more areas of financial services like merchant banknig (limited to management of and participation in issues of securities, underwriting and placement as agents and provision of services related to such issues, loan syndication, corporate counselling and project appraisal and evaluation); financial consultancy services, factoring, venture capital, financial leasing and credit rating. Professional services like advertising, accounting and architectural services and general management and consultancy services and construction work for industrial buildings and townships may also be included in the improved offer.

गेहूं का निर्यात एवं आयात

554. **डा. बापू कालिदास** : क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि 1 जनवरी, 1992 के बाद सरकार ने गेहूं का बड़ी मात्रा में निर्यात किया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस कालावधि में कितना गेहूं निर्यात किया गया और किस दर पर निर्यात किया गया;

(ग) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार अब अमरीका से गेहूं आयात करने के बारे में विचार कर रही है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो यह गेहूं किस दर पर और कितनी मात्रा में आयात किया जाएगा ?

वाणिज्य मंत्रालय में उप मंत्री (श्री सलमान खुर्शीद) : (क) और (ख) भारत से 1 जनवरी, 1992 के बाद गेहूं की कुछ मात्रा निर्यात की गई है । ब्यौरा एकत्र किया जा रहा है और सभा पटल पर रख दिया जाएगा ।

(ग) और (घ) खाद्य मंत्रालय का एक शिष्टमंडल सितम्बर/अक्तूबर 1992 में संयुक्त राज्य अमरीका गया था और उसने अक्तूबर–दिसम्बर, 1992 में पोत लदान के लिए 110.5 अमरीकी डालर प्रति एम टन (पोत पर्यन्त नि:शुल्क खाड़ी) की दर पर तथा जनवरी–मार्च 1993 में पोत लदान के लिए 112.5 अमरीकी डालर प्रति एम.टन (पोत पर्यन्त नि:शुल्क-खाड़ी) की दर पर 9.85 लाख मीट्रिक टन गेहूं की खरीद को अन्तिम रूप दिया है । अमरीकी कृषि विभाग ने अमरीकी निर्यात वृद्धि कार्यक्रम के तहत 33.45 डालर प्रति एम. टो. औसत बोनस (इमदाद) दी है ।

Export of granite blocks

555. SHRI SUNDER SINGH BHANDARI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) what is the value of raw blocks of granite exported to various countries during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the number of granite processing units working in the country, their capacity and employment generated in these units, during the last three years; and

(c) the steps Government proposed to take to remove the constraints faced by the granite processing units in availability of raw materials ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) : (a) Value of cut granite blocks exported to various countries during the last three years, year-wise, has been Rs. 106 crores, 172 crores and 250.8 crores during 1989-90, 1990-91 and 1991-92 respectively.

(b) While some granite processing units working in the country are approved under the 100% BOU Scheme, others stand registered with DGTD and respective State Directorates of Industries. The precise number of granite processing units, their capacity and employment generation are, therefore, not available.

(c) The problems faced by the granite industry in regard to availablity of raw material (rough granite blocks) including the leasing policies followed by the State Governments have been taken up with the respective State Governments from time to time.

Decline in exports to rupee payment area

556. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the exports to rupee payment area have declined by 42.5 per cent; if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to boost such exports ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) : (a) Yes, Sir. It is a fact that there has been a substantial decline in the exports to the RPA countries. Some of the important reasons for the decline are as follows :

(i) The disintegration of the major trading partner, the Soviet Union.

(ii) The economic restructuring and decline in industrial production in that country led to lower supplies of Trade Protocol items to India resulting in lower rupee generation for exports.

(iii) Placing an upper limit to the technical credit in place of earlier unlimited technical credit led to reduce exports.